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AUTHOR Hennings, Patricia
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ABSTRACT

This competency-based preservice home economics teacher education module on procedures for selecting furnishings is the fifth in a set of six modules on consumer education related to housing. (This set is part of a larger series of sixty-seven modules on the Management Approach to Teaching Consumer and Homemaking Education [MATCHE]--see CE 019 901-967.) Following the module objectives and overview, three units of instruction are presented: (1) comparison of home furnishings (includes three lessons on the unique furnishing requirements of individuals and families, selection of case goods, upholstered goods and accessories, and selection of background furnishings); (2) rental versus purchase of home furnishings (includes two lessons on purchasing furniture for mobility and flexibility and maintaining a sense of individuality while moving or renting home furnishings); and (3) alternatives to purchasing new furnishings (includes one lesson on resources for used home furnishings items). Each lesson generally includes the following elements: narrative summary, suggested activities, and suggested resources (readings). A module pre/posttest (with answer key) concludes the document. (Workshop proceedings relating to the development of these modules are available in the ERIC system as CE 019 896-899; also available is a module on utilizing FHA-HERO as an instructional strategy to expand and strengthen the home economics instructional programs [CE 019 900].) (JH)

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CONSUMER APPROACH STRAND:

HOUSING

MODULE I-B-5 PROCEDURES FOR SELECTING FURNISHINGS

Module Writer: Patricia Hennings, M. S.

1978

Project Director
Gwen Cooke, Ph. D.

Assistant Director
Maurine Vander Griend, M. S.

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California State Department of Education
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CE 019 909

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MATCHE

Management Approach to Teaching Consumer and Homemaking Education

MATCHE is an individualized, competency-based preservice curriculum designed for home economics education students at the preprofessional, upper division level. MATCHE is a comprehensive curriculum based on selected objectives which give emphases in three areas: 1) consumer approach to homemaking education, 2) teaching home economics in economically depressed areas, and 3) establishing occupational programs related to home economics. The material for each subject matter area of home economics has been organized into these three strands, and includes an FHA-HERO emphasis. These subject matter areas are home economics education core, housing, foods and nutrition, textiles and clothing, human development, and management.

The MATCHE modules were written by subject matter specialists from various colleges and universities offering home economics and therefore each is unique in the approach used for the development of the objectives. The modules allow for differences in level of achievement, rate of learning, and learning goals. They may be used independently, combined into a sequential series, or as a random set of conceptual units. Any instructor using the material can easily adapt the material to a specific group of students, the locale, method of instruction, and available facilities. Learning may be facilitated by offering one module in conjunction with others.

As MATCHE is continuously up-dated by those using the curriculum, some concepts and objectives may be added and others deleted. The purpose is to continually strengthen the program for pre and inservice home economics teachers.

Guidelines for Use and Continuous Development of MATCHE are on file with Home Economics units in each of the fifty state departments of education plus all of the Home Economics Departments in California institutions offering home economics education. This booklet and proceedings from the four MATCHE workshops give background information concerning the purpose and development of the MATCHE project.

For further information contact:

Bureau of Homemaking Education
Vocational Education Unit
California State Department of Education
721 Capitol Mall
Sacramento, California 95814

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MATCHE PROJECT

1974-1978

Director - Dr. Gwen Cooke, Chairperson
Department of Home Economics
California State University, Fresno

Assistant Director - Maurine Vander Griend

Fifty-one MATCHE modules were written, using the format and objectives selected by the 1971 task force and advisory committee. Modules were reviewed and content validated by subject matter specialists at statewide workshops.

Module Writers

CORE
- Margaret Barkley (2 modules), Arizona State University
- Jan Chesemore (1), California State University, Fresno
- Katherine Karikka (1), California State University, Fresno
- Sharman Smith (1), Humboldt State University
- Ruby Trow (1), California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

Housing
- Patricia Hennings (9), California State University, Fresno

Foods and Nutrition
- Jill Armstrong (1), San Francisco State University
- Mary Byers (1), Loma Linda University
- Joanne Caid (1), California State University, Fresno
- Jan Chesemore (2), California State University, Fresno
- Elena Kissick (1), California State University, Fresno
- Evelyn Mar (1), California State University, Chico
- Ratana Newsome (1), California State University, Fresno
- Frank Waskey (1), California State University, Chico

Textiles and Clothing
- Barbara Christensen (1), San Jose State University
- Margaret Gylling (1), San Jose State University
- Nina Henry (3), California State University, Northridge

Human Development
- John Boogaert (8), California State University, Fresno
- Nancy Winston (2), California State University, Fresno

Management
- Betty Bailey (1), California State University, Northridge
- Katherine Karikka (2), California State University, Fresno
- Helen Mau (1), San Francisco State University
- Jan Movey (3), California State University, Fresno
- Vaunden Nelson (2), San Jose State University
- Sharman Smith (1), Humboldt State University

1971-1973

Director - Dr. Ruth James
Department of Home Economics
California State Polytechnic University,
San Luis Obispo

Staff members at Cal Poly served as a task force responsible for the development and selection of instructional objectives, clustering of objectives into related modules, and writing of sixteen modules.

Task Force:

Connie Breazeale	Mildred Roskie
Sarah Burrough	Cheryl Stillman
Leslie Labhard	Ellen Stookey
Karen Sue Moerman	

1971-1978

This project was initiated, sponsored, and funded under Public Law 90-576 and Public Law 94-482 by the Bureau of Homemaking Education, California State Department of Education, under the leadership of the following staff:

M. Catherine Welsh, Chief
Nona J. Verloo, Assistant Chief

Staff Members:

Mary P. Conway	I. Marjorie Remy
Janice L. DeBenedetti	Dale Rossi
Martha C. Eichorn Martin	Dorothy W. Stone
Theodora Faiola	Lucille Valinoti
Mildred Huber	Maurine Vander Griend
Pat C. Kamm	

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PROCEDURES FOR SELECTING FURNISHINGS

Module Objectives

The MATCHE student will be able to provide an oral critique of a selected item of furnishing found in a store known to carry a wide range of furniture qualities. Shopping with a small group (3 to 5) of classmates, the student will be able to evaluate five features of a particular item of furnishing which make it preferred over others of the same style or functional type, including the merits of material, construction, finish, design, price, and suitability to the character of a room. The MATCHE student will justify the selection of the item to the satisfaction of the group of classmates. Items might include furniture or materials used in furnishings, such as floorcoverings or window treatments.

Given a case study on a family that is relocating to another city for a particular period of time, with information on income, type and size of housing selected, time of residency in new area, existing furniture situation, and moving and storage costs typical of the area, the MATCHE student will prepare a written analysis of the alternatives available to the family for furnishing their temporary residence, with calculations of the approximate cost of each. Alternatives should include at least the following: moving, selling or storing all or part of existing furniture and buying or renting new or used furniture or furnishings. Calculations for rental or storage should take into account the cost per year of the item and existing financial obligations.

Module Overview

The selection of furnishings for an unfurnished dwelling is a large investment and one which is greatly affected by your ability to make comparisons of merchandise. You will need to consider such factors as the design, type, and style of furniture items, floorcovering, window treatments and other furnishings. Of utmost importance will be an interior design plan or general theme which you wish to carry out. The quality of construction, finishes, and materials largely determines the durability of furnishings. Suitability should be analyzed in relations to use and user's needs, scale, initial cost, maintenance, and aesthetics.

There are alternatives to buying new furniture. Older items might be refinished, used furniture might be adequate, and in some locales furniture may be rented.

The high mobility rate of individuals and families in the United States necessitates other considerations. One must consider the need to personalize space and establish a sense of rootedness in their life space whether it be rented or owned. Moving and storage costs must also be considered.

In order to prepare you to teach the procedures for selecting furnishings, this module has been divided into the following units.

Unit 1: Comparison of Home Furnishings

Unit 2: Rental vs. Purchase of Home Furnishings

Unit 3: Alternatives to Purchasing New Furnishings

UNIT 1

COMPARISON OF HOME FURNISHINGS

Objective

Assigned several different items of home furnishings that are available at a local store, the MATCHE student will be able to go to that store, inspect the items, and determine and report on:

1. the various types and qualities of component materials and construction in which each item is available, describing how both affect price, quality, durability, and appropriateness for diverse users.

2. the various styles, scales, and designs in which each item is available and resulting price differences.

Overview

The furnishings which an individual or family select for their home will reflect interest, values, and personality. Many persons' selections are based on comfort, easy maintenance, and/or economy. While personal preference might remain the selling point, the wisdom of a purchase will be enhanced by the ability to determine the quality and durability of items, and their suitability to their users.

Furniture has been described as the major transition between architecture and people. In our current quest for "human near environment" free from the stresses of the crowding, hustle, and tension of the outside world, one must analyze furnishing decisions with great care. We expect our furnishings to provide comfort, beauty, and durability, and to help organize space and to express our individuality.

We live in a highly mobile society. Changes in life styles and work patterns, and the family in transition necessitate a design plan with built-in flexibility. A design plan is built on one's exposure to furnishing styles, to materials and their availability. Second, a thorough analysis of the advantages and limitations inherent in each furnishing item is essential. Third, one must assess his or her life style, needs, wants, and resources prior to making major investments. In a rented, leased, or temporary dwelling, portable furnishings and accessories will be of primary concern, Movability and flexibility will be considerations for the mobile individual or family in selecting furniture, lamps, and accessories.

The temporary space may be inadequate or smaller than desired and the backgrounds rather unimaginative. The need to personalize one's life space has been demonstrated by behavioral scientists for some time, yet we must also deal with spiraling moving costs and a furnishing market that is changing its face almost as rapidly as the garment industry changes fashions. Scale both of the dwelling and the user must also be considered. Both visual and actual weight of furnishings becomes a factor in our ultimate furnishing satisfaction.

Additional items of great expense in a purchased dwelling are architechtural or semi-permanent. These items include floor coverings, wall coverings, and window treatments. These items are frequently referred to as backgrounds. The color, texture, and pattern of backgrounds will greatly affect the illusion of spaciousness in the dwelling, the climatic control, comfort, and sound reduction. As our population concentration increases and we continue to move to smaller and multiple dwellings, our sense of visual and acoustical privacy is essential.

The activities for this unit will be divided into three categories:

1. A thorough analysis of user needs, wants, resources, and unique requirements for furnishing a lifespace.

2. An analysis of portable furnishings, i.e., case goods, upholstered goods and accessories.

3. An analysis of architectural or semi-permanent furnishings, i.e., floor coverings, wall coverings, and window treatments.

This unit will give you the opportunity to gain firsthand experience at comparing various items of home furnishings, and analyzing the various factors which affect the quality, suitability, and durability of the items, such as materials, construction, style, price, and intended use. One should also be aware of the needed interrelationships between the furnishings, the dwelling, and the users of each.

Lesson 1: The Unique Furnishing Requirements of Individuals and Families

The narrative summary and all of the resources and the activities presented in these lessons will enable you to determine some of the factors to be considered when selecting furniture for temporary or stable dwellings.

Narrative Summary

Individuals and families are composed of a variety of attributes which influence their furniture selection. One must consider the physical characteristics of the users, their age, size, scale, visual and

auditory capacities, and any health limitations. One must also analyze resources and skills as they relate to furniture selection, restoration and/or construction. Activities, spatial limitations, and storage needs also run the gamut. Probably no two individuals and no two families have the same taste or requirements for life spaces and their furnishings. In our world of look alike tract houses and standardized apartments, one must recognize we are not live alike dwellers. The activities and resources in this lesson will enable you to explore individual furnishing requirements prior to analyzing the portable furniture and background furnishings in the following lessons.

All activities should be submitted to and discussed with your instructor.

Suggested Activities

1. After reading Chapters 19 and 20 in Stepat Devan's book Introduction to Home Furnishings and Chapter 1 in Faulkner and Faulkner's Inside Today's Home, which discusses planning considerations for personal lifespace, develop a personal inventory of factors what would influence your present furniture purchase, restoration and/or construction. Secondly, develop a projected inventory for five years in the future for a life style of your choice. Note the changes and new considerations. Remain cognizant of the unknown quantitites and recognize that these will always exist.

2. Using the Introduction and Chapter 1 of both of Hennessey and Papanek's books, Nomadic Furniture and Nomadic Furniture 2 and skimming Anatomy for Interior Designers by Julius Panero, devise a chart, using the format of your choice, for furniture scale requirements for the following couple. Some furniture will be shared. Include all dimensions and any special requirements for each piece of furniture.

   Occupants: Female, 25 years of age, 5' tall, weight 100 pounds, minor back ailment
   Male, 28 years of age, 6'4" tall, weight 200 pounds, knee injury

   Furniture: Bed, easy chairs, sofa, desk chairs, dining table and chairs to seat 8

3. Visit a local furniture store and sit and view numerous side chairs. With the aid of a metal tape, note the seat, back, and arm height most comfortable for you. Also note desirable chair width, seat depth, and pleasing style features.

Suggested Resources

Faulkner, Ray, and Sarah Faulkner. Inside Today's Home. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1975.

Hennessey, James, and Victor Papanek. Nomadic Furniture. New York: Pantheon Books, 1973.

Hennessey, James, and Victor Papanek. Nomadic Furniture 2. New York: Pantheon Books, 1974.

Panero, Julius. Anatomy for Interior Designers 3d ed. New York: Whitney Library of Design, 1962.

Stepat - De Van, Dorothy. Introduction to Home Furnishings. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1971.

There is no progress check for this lesson. If you feel that you have adequately covered the material upon completion of the activities, proceed to Lesson 2.

Lesson 2: Selection of Case Goods, Upholstered Goods, and Accessories

Narrative Summary

With a knowledge of the diversity of individual furnishing requirements well in mind, you are ready to begin an assessment of the local furnishing market. Perusal of home and design magazines and attentive window shopping will help you in your analysis of furniture value. Your undergraduate course work in color and design and housing and interior design have provided a foundation upon which you might construct your quality evaluation. Faulkner and Faulkner state, "There is no quick and easy way to size up furniture materials and construction." The manufacturers' specifications are not available, construction details are often hidden by the outer covering, and the material and finish acceptability vary in suitability from one circumstance to the next.

This lesson is designed to aid you in furniture assessment within the following subdivisions: case goods and frames, upholstered goods, woods, metals and plastics, veneer or solid construction.

Furniture prices have escalated at an astronomical rate. Shortages of some woods and petroleum products, lack of skilled labor, rising labor and freight costs, and a general decline in quality control have made it more essential than ever that the "consumer beware."

> All activities should be submitted to and discussed with your instructor.

Suggested Activities

1. Read and abstract two recent articles on wood found in Progressive Architecture - October 1974, pp. 55-63, and Interior Design, October 1974, pp. 156-157 and 174-181.

2. Review wood, plastic, and metal construction techniques discussed in the suggested resource list.

   Develop a brief chart with a brief assessment of the construction techniques and limitations of each. This chart will serve as a tool in your final activity. An understanding of veneers, solid finishes, and strength properties is essential.

3. Review the fiber and filment characteristics in Textile Handbook. Develop a list of fibers and fabric construction techniques appropriate for light, moderate, and heavy wear furniture in the home.

4. Sears' Hidden Value Series, "How to Select Furniture," contains the following two charts: (1) a checklist when shopping for case goods; (2) a checklist when shopping for upholstered goods. Using

the two checklists as preliminary guidelines, visit a local furniture store noted to carry both high- and low-end furnishing. Select a high and a low quality sofa and end table for evaluation.

Your preliminary charts are both in duplicate with room for comments. Use one chart for high-end and one chart for low-end merchandise. After your store visitation is complete, note the major descrepancies in quality. Add any additional check points you consider appropriate to improve your shopping checklist. Discuss your visit with your instructor. Sketches or photographs may be helpful.

Note to instructor: Run 2 copies of each sheet. Source: Adapted from Sears' How to Select Furniture.

Name_____ Date_____

Store_____ Furniture Item_____

High-end_____ Low-end_____

FOR CASE GOODS	YES	NO	COMMENTS
Do doors shut tightly without sticking?			
Are doors held shut with magnetic catches? (best quality)			
Are doors and drawers flush with openings?			
Have corner blocks been used for reinforcement?			
Has dovetail construction been used on drawers?			
Are dust panels provided between drawers?			
Do drawers slide easily on guide strips or ball bearings?			
Are legs attached with mortise and tenon or dowel joints?			
Do legs stand squarely upon the floor?			
Have insides of drawers, backs of chests and undersides of tables and chairs been sanded and finished?			
Are surfaces free from defects when viewed in good light and touched with fingertips?			
Do you know if exterior surfaces are solid, veneered, or a wood finish stain?			
Has a protective plastic coating been used on surfaces that will receive hard wear?			
Is hardware attractive and securely attached?			
Will the furniture piece fulfill your use, style, color and size requirements?			
Is the piece of furniture within your preplanned budget?			

Additional considerations:

Note to instructor: Run 2 copies of each sheet.

Source: Adapted from Sears' How to Select Furniture.

Name_____ Date_____

Store_____ Furniture Item_____

High-end_____ Low-end_____

FOR UPHOLSTERED FURNITURE	YES	NO	COMMENTS
Has the frame wood been kiln-dried?			
Are the legs and joints securely attached?			
Have you read the labels or asked a salesman what kind of springs have been used and how they are attached?			
Do you know the cushion materials and how they have been constructed?			
Do the cushions have zipper closing? (Zippers give a neat fit and are <u>not</u> for removing when cleaning!)			
Are the cushions reversible?			
Does the outer covering have a well-tailored appearance?			
Will the fiber and construction of the outer covering give good wearability for your purpose?			
Does the outer covering have a soil/stain resistant finish?			
Is it comfortable for the person who will use it the most?			
If a sleeper/sofa, is it comfortable and convenient for both sitting and sleeping?			
Is it appropriate in style, design, and color for the room?			
Is it within your preplanned budget?			

Additional considerations:

Suggested Resources

Alexander, Mary Jean. Designing Interior Environment. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Inc., 1972.

Allen, Phyllis S. Beginnings of Interior Environment. Provo, Utah: Brigham Young University Press, 1972. Part 7.

Brumbaugh, James E. Upholstering. Indianapolis, Indiana: Theodore Audel and Co., 1972. Chapters 4, 5, 7, 11 and 12.

Eldin, Herbert. What Wood Is That? New York: Thames and Hudson, 1970.

Faulkner, Ray, and Sarah Faulkner. Inside Today's Home. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1975. Chapter 16.

Friedman, Arnold, et al. Interior Design: An Introduction to Architectural Interiors. New York: American Ellevier Publishing Company, 1974.

Sears, Roebuck and Co. How to Select Furniture. Chicago, Illinois: Consumer Information Services, 1974.

Stepat - DeVan, Dorothy. Introduction to Home Furnishings. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1971. Chapters 19 and 20.

"Techniques: Tales from American Woods," Progressive Architecture, October 1975, pp. 55-65.

Textile Handbook. 5th Edition. Washington, D.C.: The American Home Economics Association, 1974.

Thomsson, Arne. "Wood Veneer," Interior Design, October 1974, pp. 156-157, 174-181.

Lesson 2: Progress Check

Select an upholstered and woodframe chair available on your campus or nearby. Without the aid of notes, orally critique the chair construction for two of your classmates.

Lesson 3: Selection of Background Furnishings

Narrative Summary

The general theme for color and design is established by the architectural semipermanent backgrounds in a room. The selection of backgrounds, i.e., floor coverings, window treatments, wall coverings, is a major expense for most home owners. The longevity of most floor coverings has decreased sharply, yet the costs continue to escalate. The cost of wall coverings and window treatments has, on the other hand, decreased. We are no longer bound to expensive silks and papers on the wall and natural materials on our windows. The use of synthetic materials has been a tremendous boon to all background areas. We now have washable wall coverings, easily cleaned carpets, no wax sheet vinyls, and casements that are less affected by changes in humidity.

Your suggested resources will provide a foundation for evaluation of each of the backgrounds included in this lesson.

> All activities should be submitted to and discussed with your instructor.

Suggested Activities

1. After reading Part 5 of Phyllis Allen's Beginning of Interior Environment and Part IV of Faulkner and Faulkner's Inside Today's Home, develop a brief chart indicating the additional factors you discover through interviews regarding the three background elements covered herein. Your resource texts discuss characteristics, use, and care.

   Suggested interviewees:
   a. A carpet mill or major distribution center.
   b. The sales representative who services local distributors of sheet and/or tile flooring.
   c. A drapery work room where drapery fabrication is done.
   d. A local wall covering show room. Compare prices, method of application, design theme, and care.

2. View the Kirsch Filmstrip, Windows Beautiful.
   a. Respond to the feeling of spaciousness or lack of spaciousness created by the window treatments shown.
   b. Can you find ways to modify the existing treatments if they were provided in a rented or purchased home and were not compatible with your design plan?

3. View a series of slides on the installation of sheet flooring, wall covering application and drapery fabrication.
   a. How have the slides helped in pattern selection and installation considerations?

b. Indicate the expenditure of time, money and/or energy needed for the selection and installation of each of these items.

4. View the Berven Film, "What's It All About." List the major considerations enumerated in the film that could apply to any floor covering.

Suggested Resources

Books and Magazines

"A New Anti-Static Carpet Yarn," Textile Information Sources and Resources, April, 1975.

Armstrong. Carpet Consultant Program. Lancaster, Pennsylvania: Armstrong Cork Company, 1972.

Armstrong. Retailers' Guide to Residential Carpet. Lancaster, Pennsylvania: Armstrong Cork Company, 1974.

"Carpet and Rug Perspective 1975." Modern Textiles, January, 1975.

"Flammability," Textile Information Sources and Resources, April, 1975.

Gans-Rueden, E. Modern Oriental Carpets. London: Thames and Hudson, 1975.

Kinney Brothers of California. The Professional's Guide to Wall-coverings. Oakland, California: Kinney Brothers of California.

"Resilient, Hard Surface and Wood Flooring," Interior Design: Buyers' Guide Issue, May, 1975.

Sears, Roebuck and Co. How to Select Window Treatments. Chicago, Illinois: Sears, Roebuck and Co., 1970.

Sears, Roebuck and Co. How to Select Floor Coverings. Chicago, Illinois: Sears, Roebuck and Co., 1970.

Filmstrips and Slides

Berven Carpet of California. "What's It All About." Advertising Dept., 2600 Ventura, Fresno, California 93717. (209-233-7363)

Kirsch. Windows Beautiful. Kirsch Company, Sturgis, Michigan.

There is no progress test. If you and your instructor feel you have adequately covered the material, you may proceed to Unit 2.

UNIT 2

RENTAL VS. PURCHASE OF HOME FURNISHINGS

Objectives

The MATCHE student will be aware of the mobile nature of our society and will be able to list methods of establishing individuality and a sense of rootedness on any dwelling, no matter how temporary.

The MATCHE student will be able to list the factors to be considered for rental versus purchase of furniture items, based on the amount of time the individual or family expects to reside in an area.

Given specific furniture items, a specific area, and a specific amount of time, the MATCHE student will be able to find out how much moving and storage costs will be.

Given several different furniture items, the MATCHE student will be able to explain how to find the rental costs of each item monthly and annually in different areas of the state.

The MATCHE student will be able to explain and determine his or her legal rights when renting or moving furnishings.

Overview

Purchasing furniture for the mobile individual and family necessitates an awareness of movability and flexibility. In some cases disposable furniture is a solution. Purchasing furniture may not always be feasible for all families. Several home furnishings can be rental items. Families that are quite mobile may rent their furnishings to eliminate the cost of storage and moving vans. This unit will consider factors that are involved with the moving industry and rental agencies. As a consumer, you will learn your legal rights when using these services.

Lesson 1: Purchasing Furniture for Mobility and Flexibility

The narrative summary, all the resources, and the activities presented in this lesson will enable you to determine some of the decisions to be made and factors to be considered when renting or buying furnishings for a mobile life style.

Narrative Summary

"You are nomadic," state Hennessey and Papanek in the popular selling books Nomadic Furniture and Nomadic Furniture 2. Americans are said to move every two to three years,with the age group between 18 and 25 moving far more often. As our population becomes taller, oversized furnishing has become increasingly popular. The kingsize bed, the triple dresser, gentleman's chest, recliner, and the ornate heavy Mediterranean style have plagued the mobile but large scale family. Extension of credit and increased affluence have our dwellings bulging at the seams. Frequently, credit buying has enabled families to buy more than can be readily moved. Contemporary furniture design has had a mixed response to the mobility factor. Oak, a heavy wood, has returned to the furniture front because the wood is available. European designers, in contrast, are moving to sculptured forms, plastic or metal frames, foam and knit-covered seating, inflatable furniture and inexpensive reinforced cardboard disposable furniture. Multi-purpose use and lightweight modules are the key to the newest contemporary furnishing.

The mobile furniture shopper must be aware of the vast number of furnishing alternatives. Grandmother's lovely antique oak table and marble top, and solid walnut bedroom set may be totally impossible to move.

The lessons in this unit are designed to reinforce the mobile and impermanent nature of our life styles and to explore the purchase of movable furnishings.

All activities should be submitted to and discussed with your instructor.

Suggested Activities

1. James Hennessey and Victor Papanek in Nomadic Furniture and Nomadic Furniture 2 have illustrated several highly portable furniture alternatives available on the commercial market. Review these books and write to the manufacturers for lists and specifications for additional new developments.

2. Gerd Hatji and Elka Kasper provide an invaluable service in presenting the newest developments in flexible, multi-purpose furnishings designed internationally. New Furniture is their annual publication. Skim the last three volumes and list 12 new ideas for portable furnishings to which you had not been exposed.

3. Make a collection of slides of contemporary furnishings adaptable for the mobile dweller. Note manufacturers and showrooms where you may view and sit in this new furniture. How do you personally respond to the designs?

Suggested Resources

Hatji, Gerd and Hatji, Ursula. Design for Modern Living. New York: Harry N. Abrams, Inc. (biannual publication)

Hatji, Gerd, and Elka Kasper. New Furniture. New York: Praeger Publications. (annual publication)

Hennessey, James, and Victor Papanek. Nomadic Furniture. New York: Pantheon Books, 1973.

Hennessey, James, and Victor Papanek. Nomadic Furniture 2. New York: Pantheon Books, 1973.

Weale, Mary Jo. "From Bauhaus to Baroque: Designs Predict Furniture Trends," Journal of Home Economics, March 1973, pp. 7-11.

There is no progress check for this lesson. If you feel that you have adequately covered the material upon completion of the activities, proceed to Lesson 2.

Lesson 2: Maintaining a Sense of Individuality While Moving or Renting Home Furnishings

Narrative Summary

Before moving, it is necessary to make a careful study of what can be feasibly transported, what can be stored, what must be discarded, and what must be rented. The length of stay in the new location will be a major determinant as well as the possibility of return to the present home or an anticipated additional move. Fewer companies each year are willing to pay moving costs. The payment of moving fees has all but disappeared in the academic community and major corporations, and is being greatly curtailed in state and federal agencies and the military.

For individuals and families who see mobility as a way of life, it becomes essential to be familiar with reputable movers, insurance policies, services provided, and a complete list of moving hints.

The mobile dweller must also maintain some sense of continuity and a means of personalizing each new lifespace.

All activities should be submitted to and discussed with your instructor.

Suggested Activities

The following activities are designed to help you explore (1) the expense of moving and storing furnishings; (2) rental furniture; and (3) personalizing space.

1. Consult the yellow pages in your telephone book for local and national moving companies. Interview several firms and obtain a list of their fee structure and policies. Compare costs provided by four different firms for a 200 mile move and a 2,000 mile move.

   a. How can you cut expenses?

   b. What items are impractical to move for less than a six-month stay?

   c. Compare the storage cost to store a triple dresser, kingsize bed, 36x72 dining table and 8 dining chairs for six months quoted by four firms.

   d. Obtain copies of legal rights and limitations on liability by the moving companies.

2. Consult local rental agencies in your community. Check warranties, health and safety regulations, liabilities, lease terms, and maintenance responsibility.

   a. Construct a chart of items desirable to rent for six months and costs.

   b. List those major items making renting unfeasible and give the reasons.

3. Read Faulkner and Faulkner's and Phyllis Allen's chapters on accessories and personalizing lifespace. Visit local art center and art shows, explore rental galleries and local craft shows. Invest in a quality art object or small accessory that can be easily transported is considered a way of establishing some continuity to a rapidly changing lifespace. List items you would personally consider essential to take with you in any move.

Suggested Resources

Allen, Phyllis S. Beginnings of Interior Environment. Provo, Utah: Brigham Young University Press, 1972, Part 7.

Chamber of Commerce.

Faulkner, Ray, and Sarah Faulkner. Inside Today's Home. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1974.

McCann, Karen Carlson. Creative Home Decoration You Can Make: Low Cost Ways to Beautify Your Home. Garden City, New York: Doubleday, 1968.

Yellow Pages. Moving, Storage, Furniture and Applicances.

There is no progress check for this lesson. If you feel that you have adequately covered the material upon completion of the activities, proceed to Unit 3.

Successful completion of the activities in each unit will serve as the progress test for this unit.

UNIT 3

ALTERNATIVES TO PURCHASING NEW FURNISHINGS

Objectives

Given sample items of home furnishings of the same type but representative of new, used, home constructed and unfinished, the MATCHE student will be able to compare costs and justify the selection of an item on such factors as quality, additional costs, time, and energy for finishing or restyling, use, and expected lifespan.

The MATCHE student will be able to compile a handbook on sources and procedures for obtaining used home furnishings suitable for dissemination as a consumer guide in a particular community. Sources might include thrift stores, antique or "junk" stores, swap meets, garage sales, classified advertising, radio programs, and hotels or motels which are going out of business.

Overview

The purpose of this unit is to give you an opportunity to determine ways for acquiring items of home furnishings other than buying new items, and to organize those alternatives so that you will be prepared to teach them to others.

The narrative summary, all resources, and the activities in this unit will enable you to determine alternatives to purchasing ready-made new furnishings.

Lesson: Resources for Used Home Furnishing Items

Narrative Summary

The previous units have included information on new and rented furnishings. The combination of our mobility, quest for continuity and delight on finding a bargain may bring us to the exploration of alternatives to buying new furnishings. It has been evident in the former units that the frequent moves and increased affluence has caused a rise in discarded furniture. In some instances the discards are of such poor quality that it would be far more costly to repair than start afresh. In other instances, however, "one man's junk is another man's treasure." Phyllis Allen includes a chapter in Beginnings of Interior Environment called "The Joy of Junking." She states, "The satisfaction of making something useful, even beautiful, out of what someone else has discarded not only saves money but satisfies a creative urge."

The last five years have witnessed a rise in homecrafts, woodworkings, refinishing, and a desire to be more self-reliant. The garage sale is a furnishing alternative for members of every class in our society. Clement Meadmore has written a popular book entitled How to Make Furniture Without Tools. The two volumes of Nomadic Furniture have been purchased by people from all walks of life. Inflatable, modular, and reinforced cardboard furnishings have provided an additional response to the need for inexpensive or frankly temporary furnishing.

Parents finding themselves in a large home with all the children gone frequently donate furniture to their children's households. In our "future shock" pace, young adults often treasure links with a stable past.

The activities in this unit are designed to help you reassess individual resources for careful secondhand shopping, restoration, or simple furnishing construction.

All activities should be submitted to and discussed with your instructor.

Suggested Activities

1. The Thonet bentwood Vienna Cafe chair has been a classic for years. It is one of our most copied chairs. It is available in many colors and currently retails in natural beechwood for approximately $65. Search a local thrift store, garage sales, junk shops and other sources available in your community for the secondhand version of this chair.

   Compare materials, construction, cost, and refinishing necessary to bring it back to prime condition.

2. a. Visit a local furniture store and select a traditional end table of quality constructed hardwood. Note prices and finishing details.

   b. Check various secondhand sources to find an end table of comparable quality.
      1. How much time was spent in finding the secondhand item?
      2. How much time, skill, and energy would be necessary for quality restoration?
      3. Obtain estimates from qualified furniture restorers to determine their fee structure.

3. Skim Meadmore's book, How to Make Furniture Without Tools. Did you find ideas for furniture to meet your needs? List popular magazines and pamphlets in which additional simple construction or refurbishing ideas are available.

4. Comprise a list of sources of used unfinished and damaged furniture outlets in your community.

5. Interview two professional furniture refinishers and two upholsterers.

   a. Observe the quality of their work.

   b. Determine the variables for giving cost estimates.

      Have you noted some forms of irreparable damage or abuse?

6. View the slide set on furniture refinishing. (Note: This slide set accompanies this module.)

Suggested Resources

Brumbaugh, James E. Wood Furniture. Indiana: Theodore Audel and Co., 1974.

Friedman, Arnold, et al. Interior Design and Introduction to Architectural Interiors. New York: American Elievier Publishing Co., 1974.

Hennessey, James, and Victor Papanek. Nomadic Furniture. New York: Pantheon Books, 1973.

Hennessey, James, and Victor Papanek. Nomadic Furniture 2. New York: Pantheon Books, 1973.

Kinney, Ralph Parsons. The Complete Book of Furniture Repair and Refinishing. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1971.

Meadmore, Clement. How to Make Furniture Without Tools. New York: Pantheon Books, 1975.

Wilson, Patricia. Consumer Guide to Used and Surplus Home Appliances and Furnishings. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1973.

Progress Test

The progress test for this unit will be to compile an annotated handbook of sources and procedures for obtaining used home furnishing suitable as a consumer guide in a particular community.

Module Posttest

After you have completed the final unit progress test for this module, you should be ready to take the Module Posttest. See your instructor.

MODULE PRE/POSTTEST

Student_____

Procedures for Selecting Furnishings Instructor_____

Date_____

Student:	This pre/posttest will assess your knowledge of the information presented in this module. You need study only those units that are prescribed on the basis of pretest results.

1. List seven factors to be considered by a family before they purchase any new furniture.

   a.

   b.

   c.

   d.

   e.

   f.

   g.

2. List seven construction factors which would indicate high quality for a triple dresser.

   a.

   b.

   c.

   d.

   e.

   f.

   g.

3. Assume the above dresser is of Mediterranean style and is dark solid oak. Indicate the problems this piece of furniture might create for a highly mobile young family of three with an annual income of $18,000 a year.

4. A single career person, age 26, income $7,000 a year, has decided to buy a seven foot sofa for the apartment. The individual has budgeted $700 for the purchase. Entertainment is frequent. Eating and drinking occur in the living room. The occupant is not an exceptional housekeeper. What features should be considered relating to frame, inner fillings, outer cover, fabric, construction, finish and style?

5. Discuss six major considerations when selecting a drapery casement fabric.

   a.

   b.

   c.

   d.

   e.

   f.

6. List seven major factors to consider when selecting any floor covering.

   a.

   b.

   c.

   d.

   e.

   f.

   g.

7. A family of two working parents, age 35 and 30, and two children, ages 10 and 5, have been transferred for one year. Their combined income is $22,000 a year. They had previously been living in a three bedroom, 1,800 square foot house. They will be renting a three bedroom apartment with 1,100 square feet.

   Write an expanded case study suggesting the moving costs to move 200 miles. List all considerations regarding renting, storing, discarding, or purchasing secondhand furnishing. What items would you suggest they leave behind. Include all pertinent data you would need to know to advise this mobile family.

8. List six recommendations for furniture selection for a single, career person who is transferred every year.

   a.

   b.

   c.

   d.

   e.

   f.

9. Suggest six furnishing resources other than the selection of new furniture.

   a.

   b.

   c.

   d.

   e.

   f.

10. List seven factors to evaluate when comparing new, used or rented furniture.

    a.

    b.

    c.

    d.

    e.

    f.

    g.

ANSWER KEY
MODULE PRE/POSTTEST

Procedures for Selecting Furnishings

Instructor:	Do not reproduce this page in students' booklets. You must retain it for grading and prescriptive purposes. Answers will vary with individuals. A preferred response might be similar to the answer presented.

1. a. mobility
   b. budget
   c. alternative choices, i.e.: secondhand, refinished, home constructed
   d. scale of occupants
   e. scale of living space
   f. flexible design plan
   g. needs vs. wants
   h. individual talents and resources of time and energy
   i. maintenance

2. a. dovetailed drawer joints
   b. corner blocks on the frame
   c. dust panel
   d. smooth even finish
   e. a hardwood frame
   f. a drawer glide secured to hardboard
   g. secure hardware
   h. drawers shut without sticking and flush with opening
   i. legs are level and securely fastened

3. high moving costs
   very heavy
   large scale necessitates a large bedroom, yet rooms are getting smaller
   style is ornate and bulky; it will appear to occupy considerable space in a room

4. kiln-dried hardwood frame free from knots
   corner blocks
   securely attached legs
   a spring, marshall or marflex seating unit
   an outer cover of tight weave in a pattern or solid that could blend with other temporary dwelling
   is the pattern matched from front to back
   a style with exposed legs will seem to occupy less space in the room
   is delivery and freight included within the stated price

5. a. dimensional stability of warp yarns
   b. resistance to sun fading
   c. fabric on grain
   d. avoid horizontal patterns which will tend to sag
   e. long floats will tend to pull
   f. desired fullness

5. g. the view
   h. privacy desired
   i. acoustical and insulating properties

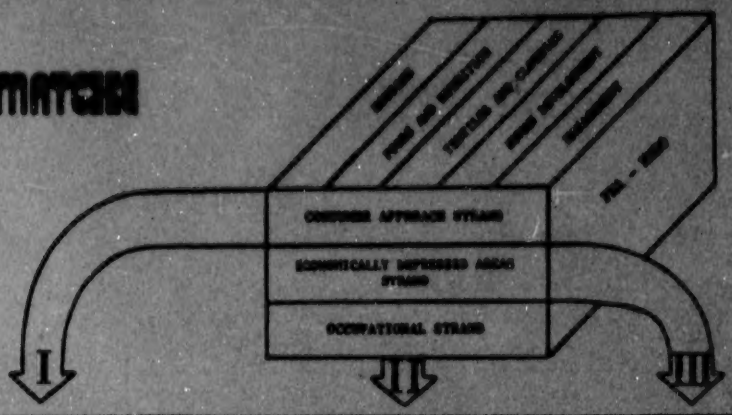
6. a. cost
   b. amount and type of traffic
   c. location - area of heavy soil, moisture, sunlight, etc.
   d. maintenance
   e. durability - lifespan
   f. color and pattern
   g. installation costs and limitations

7. professions, health considerations, working schedules, future plans, life style, activities, interests, skills, time and energy. Special treasured items. Rental facilities included in new community, cost of living in new community. Condition and amount of existing furniture. What is worth keeping, scale and weight. Credit rating, savings.

8. a. investigate rented furniture and appliances
   b. weight
   c. visual feeling of weight, scale
   d. versatility - moved into many settings
   e. storage costs
   f. movability - moving costs
   g. durability
   h. investigate cardboard, inflatable or module furniture

9. a. rent
   b. home constructed
   c. hand-me-down
   d. garage sales
   e. auctions
   f. thrift shops
   g. junk shops
   h. estate sales
   i. disposable and inflatable furnishings

10. a. cost (initial)
    b. mobility
    c. durability
    d. time and energy for restoration of used
    e. time and energy for construction of homemade
    f. cost of refurbishing used
    g. length of anticipated use
    h. suitability to users and life space
    i. moving costs
    j. quality



A.	CORE: CONSUMER APPROACH TO HOMEMAKING EDUCATION 1 Life Styles and the Consumer 2 Community Consumer Resources 3 Consumer Rights and Responsibilities 4 Incorporating the Consumer Approach in Homemaking Classes	CORE: ESTABLISHING OCCUPATIONAL PROGRAMS 1 Analyzing Job Market Opportunities 2 Developing Occupational Programs 3 Implementing Occupational Programs 4 Evaluating Occupational Programs	CORE: TEACHING HOME ECONOMICS IN ECONOMICALLY DEPRESSED AREAS 1 Characteristics of Economically Depressed Areas 2 Life Style Characteristics of Economically Depressed Areas 3 Community Resources for Economically Depressed Areas 4 Developing and Implementing Programs for Economically Depressed Areas
	AREA (Module) PACKAGES	AREA (Module) PACKAGES	AREA (Module) PACKAGES
B.	HOUSING 1 Consumer Use of the Community 2 Procedures for Selecting a Community 3 Procedures for Selecting Housing 4 Shopping for a Home Loan 5 Procedures for Selecting Furnishings 6 Maintenance Procedures for Surfaces, Furniture, and Appliances	HOUSING 1 Occupational Opportunities Related to Housing and Interiors 2 Required Skills for Retail Sales of Furnishings and Related Household Items	HOUSING 1 Low Income Housing 2 Government Housing Programs 3 Low Income Furnishings
C.	FOODS AND NUTRITION 1 Technological, Sociological, Ecological, and Environmental Factors Related to Food 2 Regulatory Agencies Responsible for Wholesomeness and Quality of Foods 3 Consumer Aspects in Planning Meals 4 Cultural Food Patterns 5 Influences on Food Prices	FOODS AND NUTRITION 1 Occupational Opportunities Related Foods and Nutrition 2 Operations and Activities of a Food Service Operation 3 Managing a Food Service Operation	FOODS AND NUTRITION 1 Food Availability in Economically Depressed Areas 2 Low Income Food Patterns 3 Meal Management on a Low Income
D.	TEXTILES AND CLOTHING 1 Consumer Approach to Textiles and Clothing 2 Sociological, Psychological, and Economic Factors Affecting Clothing Selection 3 Clothing Needs of Individuals 4 Applications and Implications of New Technology in Textiles and Clothing	TEXTILES AND CLOTHING 1 Occupational Opportunities Related Textiles and Clothing 2 Assembly Line Garment Construction 3 Merchandising Textiles and Ready-To-Wear	TEXTILES AND CLOTHING 1 Clothing the Individual and Family 2 Utilizing Resources for Clothing and Textiles
E.	HUMAN DEVELOPMENT 1 Societal Changes Affecting the Family 2 The Relationship Between Spending Patterns and Interpersonal Relationships 3 Financial Pressures in Various Life Styles and Cycles 4 Individuals and Families in Crisis 5 Consumer Aspects of Parenthood	HUMAN DEVELOPMENT 1 Occupational Opportunities Related to Human Development 2 Children's Center Aide 3 Developing Programs for Preschool Children 4 Convalescent Home Aide	HUMAN DEVELOPMENT 1 Characteristics of Economically Depressed Area Families 2 The Child and the Economically Depressed Area Family 3 Resources for the Economically Depressed Area Family
F.	MANAGEMENT 1 Relationship Between National and Consumer Economics 2 Consumer Legislative Issues 3 Environmental Issues and the Consumer 4 Financial Management 5 Family and Individual Credit Management 6 Management View of the Multiple Role 7 The Metric System	MANAGEMENT 1 Occupational Opportunities Related to Home Management and Supporting Services 2 Occupational Preparation for Jobs Utilizing Housekeeping Skills	MANAGEMENT 1 Management Skills 2 Money Management 3 Marketing Practices in Relation to Low Income Clientele